

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system ~~as in claim 1~~, comprising:
 at least one user terminal, at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
 at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
 said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having
been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user
terminal performance, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of
there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal
and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system ~~as in claim 1~~, comprising:
 at least one user terminal, at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
 at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
 said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having
been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user
terminal performance, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a prediction of an
occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the
user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system ~~as in claim 1~~, comprising:
 at least one user terminal, at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
 at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
 said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having
been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user
terminal performance, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of
there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal
and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said
one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system ~~as in~~
~~claim 1~~, comprising:

at least one user terminal, at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having
been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user
terminal performance, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of
there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal
and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal
quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum
threshold value.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system ~~as in~~
~~claim 1~~, comprising:

at least one user terminal;
at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having
been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user
terminal performance, wherein said user terminal is responsive to received pilot channel
signals for detecting a number of satellites through which a communication between the
user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system ~~as in~~
~~claim 10~~, comprising:

at least one user terminal;
at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;

said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to a receipt of a message from said gateway, indicating that at least one criterion has been met, for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in ~~claim 10~~ claim 12, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a prediction of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in ~~claim 10~~ claim 12, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in ~~claim 10~~ claim 12, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in ~~claim 10~~ claim 12, wherein said user terminal is responsive to received pilot channel signals for detecting a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and for transmitting information indicative of the number of satellites to said gateway.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method ~~as in claim 19~~ for operating a mobile satellite telecommunications system, comprising:
providing at least one user terminal, at least one satellite in earth orbit, and at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
determining that at least one criterion has been met, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted; and
activating an indicator of said user terminal for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method as in ~~claim 19~~ claim 21, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a prediction of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method as in ~~claim 19~~ claim 21, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method as in ~~claim 19~~ claim 21, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method as in ~~claim 19~~ claim 21, wherein said user terminal is responsive to received pilot channel signals for detecting a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method as in ~~claim 19~~ claim 21, wherein said determination is made in said user terminal.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method as in ~~claim 19~~ claim 21, wherein said determination is made in said gateway based at least in part on information transmitted to said gateway from said user terminal.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (previously presented): A mobile satellite telecommunications system comprising:

- at least one user terminal;
- at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
- at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
- said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance;

said at least one criterion being comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold of value.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A mobile satellite telecommunications system comprising:

- at least one user terminal;
- at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
- at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
- said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to a receipt of a message from said gateway, indicating that at least one criterion has been met, for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance,

wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said

user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method for operating a mobile satellite telecommunications system comprising:

- providing at least one user terminal;
- at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
- at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
- determining the at least one criterion has been met; and
- activating an indicator of said user terminal for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance,

wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.